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United States Court of Appeals  
For the District of Columbia Circuit

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**Special Division**

Hon. Mark J. Langer, Clerk  
United States Court of Appeals  
District of Columbia Circuit  
Washington, DC 20001-2866

Re: Thomas Collier

Dear Mr. Langer:

I write to comment and provide additional factual information on behalf of my client, Thomas Collier, in regard to the report submitted by the Independent Counsel in Division No. 98-1 -- *In Re: Bruce Edward Babbitt*. While the report is quite long and detailed, there are a few areas where it has omitted important factual information that contradict the assertions made concerning Mr. Collier's activities in regard to the Shakopee Tribe adoption issue and the Hudson Dog Track matter.

A. While the Independent Counsel's report makes much of Mr. Collier's representation of the Shakoopes in regard to an ordinance governing procedures for adoption of members of the Tribe, it mischaracterizes the events it discusses and leaves out important information.

1. The Independent Counsel's report states that Mr. Collier somehow had the perception that the appropriate way to lobby the Department of Interior ("DOI") was to make a contribution to the Democratic National Committee ("DNC") and at the same time seek its intervention on matters pending before DOI. This was rhetorically contrasted to a suggestion that Mr. Collier could have dealt directly with DOI on this issue. But in fact, Mr. Collier had significant and fruitful contacts about the adoption issue with DOI prior to the time he accompanied his Shakopee clients to the meeting with Don Fowler at the DNC. Due to these efforts, which were legal and proper, the issue concerning the adoption ordinance was in the process of being resolved in a manner favorable to the Shakopee Tribe. So as an initial matter, Mr. Collier did exactly what the Independent Counsel suggests he should have done in this matter.